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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

COR - 0785

8 March 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Chief, DFD

SUBJECT : Development Branch Activity Report, 29 Feb.- 4 March 1960

1. OX CART:

a. On 1 March, Messrs. Kiefer, [] met with [] of Pratt and Whitney, West Palm Beach, Florida, for a review of the exhaust gas ionization additive program. The details of this meeting are covered in a separate memorandum.

c. On 4 March, Colonel Geary reviewed his visits of the previous week to Lockheed [] with Mr. Parangosky and the following items are worthy of particular attention:

(1) According to Geary, Mr. C. L. Johnson advised that he will retain the use of a Lockheed C-47 aircraft for OXCART until May and perhaps for an additional period of time. Therefore, there is no immediately impending requirement [] or other airlift at this time.

(2) Colonel Geary raised the question of utilizing Edwards Air Force Base as an OXCART operational site [] This is a rather surprising suggestion in view of Colonel Geary's memorandum of January 1960 which reported that USAF endorsed [] as the OXCART operational site. Colonel Geary now feels strongly about the expenditures for construction required of the operational site located at [] (Comment: The Security and Cover Branches are being requested to present their views on this matter.) Colonel Geary feels that a decision must soon be rendered on [] versus Edwards Air Force Base in view of the long lead-time construction program requirement []

d. On 4 March, [] of Minneapolis-Honeywell Inertial Guidance Center, St. Petersburg, Florida, met with Mr. Bissell and Messrs. Kiefer and Parangosky at Headquarters. [] reviewed the M-H OXCART

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25X1 Inertial Navigation System cost proposal and explained the price history of cost increases noted since the first proposal was submitted to Lockheed. Mr. Bissell asked [] to furnish additional cost data associated with a 30-pound weight reduction in the equipment. [] will submit the information by 8 March. In response to a request by [] for a quick decision concerning the M-H proposal, Mr. Bissell indicated that he hoped that a decision could be rendered before the end of the week, i.e., 11 March. 25X1 25X1

25X1 e. Messrs. Kiefer and [] plan to visit Lockheed during the week of 7 March for the purpose of reviewing the A-12 [] situation and courses of action being taken to cope with problem areas. 25X1

f. The next OXCART suppliers meeting is scheduled for 28 March at Lockheed.

g. Mr. Parangosky plans to visit [] shortly for the purpose of reviewing latest cost data pertaining to FY 1960 and 1961 construction programs. This data is required for budgetary and planning purposes. 25X1

25X1 h. [] DFD Security Officer at Burbank, reported that a Lockheed Tech. Rep. at Del Rio told his supervisor at Lockheed that there was loose talk at Del Rio about a CHALICE follow on program. Mr. C. L. Johnson was instructed to recall his Tech. Rep. to Burbank ostensibly for consultations in order to permit [] to debrief him. 25X1

i. Impending major OXCART decisions: award of the autopilot system, inertial navigation and camera contracts.

2. CORONA:

No significant activity.

3. ARGON:

25X1 a. An ARGON meeting was held [] on 3 March 1960. Personnel attending were from LMSD, OSD, [] FINE, AMS, and Headquarters. Items of importance that were brought out during the meeting were: 25X1

(1) Lens deliveries may cause a small slippage in the proposed first flight date of late July.

(2) Fairchild is experiencing difficulties in manufacturing component parts for the camera, and deliveries from this area are indicating a four-week slippage in the proposed first flight date of late July.

(3) G.E. is also experiencing delays in deliveries of the Mark 4 and 5.

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b. The above slippages are being reviewed with all concerned this week in attempt to recover anticipated losses.

c. Also to be reviewed this week are operational parameters, exposure latitudes, and processing requirements.

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6. CHALICE:

a. A report on the visit of [redacted] Lt. Col. Kemp of USAF and Mr. Ed Green to SAC Headquarters, concerning the CHALICE product, is contained in the minutes of the 1 March DFD staff meeting. 25X1

b. The semi-annual visit of contractor photo supervisory personnel to Detachments B and C [redacted] is planned to commence about 11 April 1960 and will include [redacted] of Hycon, Mr. Edward Green of Eastman Kodak and [redacted] of Perkin-Elmer. The following items of special interest will be reviewed:

(1) [redacted] success in processing over 60,000 feet of high quality material in MR-6A processors.

(2) Condition of tracker equipment, check out and post flight procedures.

(3) Status and condition of B configuration mirrors.

(4) Evaluation of special equipment personnel in present assignment.

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